



**The Official Opposition  
Free State Provincial Legislature**

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<b>Date</b>	14 February 2023
<b>To</b>	Hon M. Dukwana MPL Premier of the Free State
<b>Cc</b>	Lt Gen B.B Motswenyane Provincial Commissioner Free State Province
<b>From</b>	Dr Roy Jankielsohn MPL Leader of the Official Opposition Free State Legislature
<b>Subject</b>	<b>EFF NATIONAL SHUTDOWN AND THREATS OF VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION</b>

Dear Hon Premier

The DA takes the EFF's threats seriously regarding the national shutdown on 20 March 2023. In view of this we request that the people of the province get a commitment from the Provincial Government and the SAPS in the Free State that measures are in place to protect the rights of residents to do business, to attend work, to move freely without hindrance and to have their property and themselves protected from violence and intimidation through violence or threats of violence. In this respect the lives and livelihoods of residents of the province are our, and I am confident your, priority.

There is mounting evidence on social media and in public statements by EFF leaders, members and supporters that they are fully prepared to break the law in pursuit of their own political agenda.

The EFF's explicit threats of violence and acts of intimidation include:

- A picture on social media of the EFF Mpumalanga leader in full red EFF-branded clothing posing with a semi-automatic rifle, and a caption saying: "By all means necessary or possible we are ready @EFFSouthAfrica."
- A video doing the rounds of EFF party members announcing the shutdown via a loudspeaker from the back of a bakkie, where the speaker is heard saying: "We are saying to you close down all your businesses to avoid the looting. Close down all your shops to avoid the looting. Close down all your factories to avoid the lootings. Close



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down everything; nothing will be operating on that day; we are avoiding the looting. So, we are saying to you, come and join the march, my brother; come and join the march, my sister."

Giving the Minister of Education seven days to close schools, saying that any child wearing a school uniform will be doing so at their own risk.

Issuing a letter to the OR Tambo Airport authorities warning them not to allow any flights or business activity on the day.

That the Leader of the EFF has stated in no uncertain terms that he and his organisation will not apply for any approval from municipal authorities, who are the regulating authorities assigned to enforce legislation regarding public demonstrations, gatherings and protest action.

We have also been informed that EFF supporters are already stockpiling tyres and other items that may be used to disrupt our province.

Your confirmation that there will be a zero tolerance towards violence, intimidation and other threats to law abiding and peace loving residents of the Free State will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

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